

REMARKS

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that the structure/arrangement of the “free-play zone” of the housing’s wall need clarification. In view of the amending of Claim 3, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is deemed overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlhieter (U.S. 2,929,132) in view of Barankin et al (U.S. 4,700,167).

The Examiner contends that Wohlhieter discloses a bobbin comprising a housing having a floor, at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture in the floor wherein the at least one electrical lead-in having a given diameter, and a thermal strain relief wherein the thermal strain relief comprises a loop. The Examiner admits that Wohlhieter fails to disclose the aperture having a diameter larger than the diameter of the electrical lead-in. Barankin et al is cited by the Examiner as disclosing a bobbin construction with strain relief having at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture of the bobbin wherein the aperture having a diameter larger than that of the at least one electrical lead-in.

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the lead-in(s) and aperture(s) design of Barankin in Wohlhieter for the purpose of easily inserting the lead-in through the floor/flange of the bobbin.

The above rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter in view of Barankin et al in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

The present invention relates a coil bobbin that comprises a housing having an interior and including a floor with at least one electrical lead-in projecting through an aperture in the floor for attachment to a printed circuit board. The at least one electrical lead-in has a given diameter and is provided with *thermal*-strain relief that is positioned

within the interior of the housing. The aperture in the floor of the housing has a diameter larger than the given diameter of the lead-in. Incorporating the thermal strain relief within the housing does not increase the height or thickness of the bobbin package and still suppresses the thermally-induced strain associated with operation of the electronic component utilizing the bobbin.

With particular attention to column 1, lines 47-67, Wohlhieter discloses a spool or bobbin type coil form including a fusible spool head on each side of a central hub about which the turns of the coil are wound. Terminals are formed of rigid wire and extend parallel to the axis of the coil form and through the fusible spool heads. Each terminal includes a bow or kink adjacent the winding to which the initial or final turn is soldered. Wohlhieter specifically teaches that the bow of the inner terminal lies against the coil form while the corresponding kink of the outer terminal lies against the outer layer of the winding. Each terminal is fused directly to the bobbin.

Barankin et al discloses a bobbin construction including a strain relief (non-thermal type) which allows an assembler to pick up the unit by the leads without damage to the termination connection. This particular strain relief includes termination blocks 32 and 34 disposed at opposite ends of a web 22 on each of the flanges 16. Recesses 36, 38 and 40, 42 are formed in terminal blocks 32 and 34, respectively. Notwithstanding the fact that the strain relief of Barankin et al is not a thermal strain relief, Applicant respectfully submits that Barankin et al's strain relief is positioned remote from the interior of the bobbin housing. As previously stated, the thermal strain relief of the present invention is positioned within the housing and suppresses thermally-induced strain associated with operation of the electronic component utilizing the bobbin.

Applicant respectfully submits that under 35 U.S.C. § 103, teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so. There is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter by using the lead-in and aperture design of Barankin et al as proposed by the Examiner. As stated above, Wohlhieter requires that each terminal is fused directly to the flange of the bobbin. Nothing in the references suggest modifying Wohlhieter so that instead of being fused, the terminal extends through a flange aperture which has a diameter larger than that of the terminal.

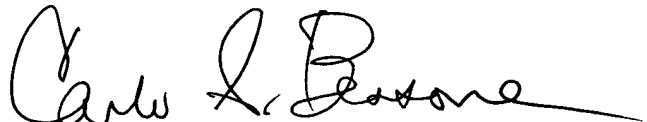
Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the above, it is evident that Wohlhieter and Barankin et al lack proper teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Wohlhieter in the manner proposed by the Examiner. The only way the Examiner could have arrived at his conclusion is through hindsight analysis by reading into the art the teachings of the Applicant. Hindsight analysis is clearly improper, since the statutory test is whether "the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made."

Absent such teaching or suggestion, the invention as defined by independent Claim 1 is deemed fully patentable over Wohlhieter and Barankin et al. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and allowance of independent Claim 1 is respectfully urged.

Applicant's Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on independent Claims 1, and therefore include all recitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant's dependent claims include additional limitations that, when combined with the recitations in Claim 1, render these claims further distinct and non-obvious over the cited references. Therefore, Claims 2-4 are likewise deemed allowable.

The Application with Claims 1-3 is deemed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully urged. Should the Examiner believe that minor differences exist which, if overcome, would pass the Application to allowance and that said differences can be discussed in a phone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlo S. Bessone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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